

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A rod fixing apparatus for a vertebra connecting member connecting separated vertebrae, the rod fixing apparatus comprising:

a pressure fixing device ~~for pressure fixing the~~ configured to pressure fix a rod portion to a circular arc rod engagement portion engaging with the rod portion; and

protruding portions ~~eating~~ configured to eat into the rod portion in both end sides of the circular arc rod engagement portion outside the pressure fixing device, the protruding portions extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the vertebra connecting member.

2. (Currently Amended) The rod fixing apparatus of claim 1, wherein a recess surface of the circular arc rod engagement portion between the protruding portions provided in the rod engagement portion is formed as a rough surface.

3. (Currently Amended) A rod fixing apparatus for fixing a rod of a vertebra connection member, comprising:

a screw portion configured to be screwed into a vertebra body;

a head portion provided with:

a groove portion connected to the screw portion and configured to
~~which~~ receive the rod ~~is~~ inserted therein, and

an engagement portion into which ~~the~~ a fixing device configured to
fix ~~for fixing~~ the rod is screwed; and

small projections configured to eat ~~eating~~ into the rod, the small
projections being provided on both sides of the groove portion, the small
projections extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal
direction of the rod.